

HEALTH CARE ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary March 24, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT

Marlene Blum, Chairman
Rose Chu, Vice Chairman
Bill Finerfrock, Vice Chair
John Clark
Susan Randall
Rosanne Rodilosso
Timothy Yarboro

GUESTS

JoAnne Jorgenson
Jim Scott

STAFF

John Ruthinoski

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the February 10, 2003 HCAB meeting were accepted as submitted.

FORMULATION OF HCAB BUDGET POSITION

Marlene Blum reported that the presentation before the Human Services Council (HSC) went very well. She reported that the HSC members seemed "stunned" at the effect further budget cuts might have on the Health Department. She also reported that she explained to the HSC that by focusing exclusively on items in the Human Services budget, it nearly missed the proposed cut in the Office of Partnerships. She added that the HSC was nearly finished with its recommendations, which this year do not focus on individual items, but rather discuss two broadly focused "issues." One of these is "Community Health Issues." The other issue, "Short term actions can lead to long term consequences for the community," includes a discussion on the Adult Health Partnership.

Health Department

Bill Finerfrock began by noting that the HCAB needed to thank the Board for its support without drawing too much attention to how little has been cut from the Health Department's budget.

West Nile Virus

Bill Finerfrock then suggested that the HCAB begin by discussing the items currently contained in the budget. He moved that:

The Health Department's addendum request for \$1,261,443 to cover expanded contract for West Nile Virus control be funded.

The motion was seconded by John Clark and motion passed unanimously.

School Health

Bill Finerfrock then moved that:

The Health Department's requests for \$100,227 for 4/2.53 SYE Clinic Room Aides and \$72,590 for 1/1.0 School Public Health Nurses be funded.

The motion was seconded by Susan Randall. John Clark asked what happened to the HCAB's recommendation that the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) contract with the Health Department for health services. John Ruthinoski responded that the Health Department was asked by the Office of the County Executive to develop a list of the health services provided by the Health Department to the FCPS. The request was a result of the HCAB's recommendation and will be used in the future when developing the budget. JoAnne Jorgenson noted that the County Executive heard the HCAB's message and even included a slide in his budget presentation before the Board demonstrating all the services the County provides to the FCPS. Marlene Blum added that the HCAB should mention that the nurse to student ratio is still not close to the recommended 1: 2000. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Community Health Care Network

Bill Finerfrock moved that:

The Health Department's addendum request for \$189,320 to cover the increasing cost of contracted services associated with the Community Health Care Network be funded. The motion was seconded by John Clark. Bill Finerfrock noted that there has been much concern lately regarding the CHCN and that new procedures have been put into place which address these concerns. The question was called and the motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

JoAnne Jorgenson reported that she was considering recommending Chris Stevens for an Outstanding Performance Award for her efforts to contain costs at the CHCN. Staff spoke with the provider physicians about the need to contain drug costs and in the first week, the pharmaceutical bill dropped from a weekly average of \$40,000 to \$14,000.

Community Access Program

Bill Finerfrock moved that the HCAB recommend:

The Health Department's request for \$85,000 to support the contract to maintain the CAP Program computer system be funded.

Susan Randall seconded the motion. JoAnne Jorgenson explained that when the County was awarded the CAP grant, it had to agree to support the project once the grant funds ended. Inova and the County are jointly funding a contract to maintain the computer system that supports the streamlined eligibility program. Marlene Blum reported that the HCAB will soon be receiving an update on this program. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

ADHC

Bill Finerfrock moved that the HCAB recommend:

The Health Department not close the Annandale ADHC Center and cut \$267,855 and 8/8.0 positions.

John Clark seconded the motion. Bill Finerfrock noted that it was unlikely that the Little River Glen Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) Center would be opening when it was originally anticipated. He added that the recommendation should include the request that the Annandale ADHC not be closed until the Little River Glen ADHC was up and running. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

HIV Program

Bill Finerfrock asked about the impact of the proposed cut to the County's HIV program. John Ruthinoski explained that currently, programs in 3 organizations (Whitman-Walker Clinic, Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM), and a newer small organization named Positive Livin', Inc.) are supported with this funding. These programs provide educational sessions and outreach to adult and adolescent men, youth in the Fairfax County Public Schools and alternative schools, active substance abusers, and the homeless. He added that when this program was originally proposed to be cut, the County believed it would still have funding from the State in the form of two grants (Minority AIDS Program and Community Collaborative Grant) which supported Positive Livin' and two other programs in the community. However the Community Collaborative Grant was not renewed in calendar year 2003 and the Minority AIDS Program will be discontinued as of December 2003. After that, local community based organizations will have to compete with organizations throughout the state for HIV Prevention funding.

After some discussion, Bill Finerfrock moved that the HCAB express concern about the cut, but state that it understands why it is necessary. He added that the HCAB should

recommend that the County assist the non-profit organizations in going after funding from the State. Dr. Yarboro seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Emergency Preparedness

Marlene Blum suggested the HCAB's memo contain the same information provided to the HSC regarding the impact of further budget reductions on the Health Department's emergency preparedness planning. There being no objection, it was so moved.

Office of Partnerships

Bill Finerfrock moved that the HCAB recommend that

The Board of Supervisors not cut \$145,000 from the Office of Partnership's Budget for the Adult Health and Dental Partnership.

Dr. Yarboro seconded the motion. Bill Finerfrock noted that the critical piece of this program is the work of the Northern Virginia Family Service social workers, which are supported by this contract. They are the clients' link to the providers. If the social workers are eliminated, the equitable system of distributing clients to providers will be eliminated, along with access to transportation and translation services which are vital to the program. If this funding is cut, he added that these patients will begin showing up in the hospital emergency rooms.

The question was called and the motion passed unanimously. Marlene Blum noted that she believes that this program has some hope of being restored. She added that the Board of Supervisors may recommend that the Office of Partnerships cut funding from another area of its budget. Bill Finerfrock suggested that the HCAB recommend that any other cuts not come out of direct service funding.

Fire and Rescue Department

Bill Finerfrock noted that he was not satisfied with some of the responses from the FRD staff regarding the placement of new equipment for the Lorton Station in the Burke area instead of at a closer fire station. Marlene Blum recommended that he bring this concern up with his Supervisor before the budget hearings. Bill Finerfrock noted that the HCAB expressed concern regarding the gradual rise in the ALS response time. The EMS representatives felt that the opening of new fire stations should help improve this situation. However they noted that in some areas of the County, ALS response times will never be optimal because of traffic, weather, construction and rural roads. He added that the HCAB should mention that the County should keep an eye on ALS response time in the future.

Bill Finerfrock recommended that the HCAB support the addition of a position for

Emergency Medical Dispatch, which is in the E-911 fund in the budget. The position is actually located in the Police Department, which staffs the public safety communications center. He also recommended that the HCAB recommend the restoration of the funding for the limited term building inspectors. Marlene Blum expressed surprise that no one on the Board of Supervisors asked the Fire and Rescue Department about the possibility of a disaster like the ones in Chicago and Rhode Island happening in Fairfax County. Bill Finerfrock commented that it would be short-sighted to eliminate these positions and not inspect these facilities. John Ruthinoski reminded the HCAB that the FRD staff stated that they would continue to inspect these facilities, and that pre-occupancy inspections for new buildings would be negatively impacted by this cut. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Other Business

Judth Beattie

Marlene Blum announced that Judith Beattie resigned from the HCAB in November, in order to allow her to take on her new responsibility as an appointee to the State's Child Care Advisory Board. Marlene moved that the HCAB issue the following resolution thanking Judith for her service:

WHEREAS, Judith Beattie has ably served the Citizens of Fairfax County, representing the Sully District on the Health Care Advisory Board since June 1996; and

WHEREAS, she has consistently participated in all matters before the Health Care Advisory Board, providing her good judgment, thoughtful perspective, and special expertise and understanding regarding children's health issues; and

WHEREAS, she has taken a leadership role by chairing the HIV/AIDS Committee, providing guidance and direction to the Health Care Advisory Board;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Health Care Advisory Board appreciates the commitment and work of Judith Beattie during the past six and one-half years, recognizes her many contributions to the Citizens of Fairfax County, and wishes her well in the future.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

CAAB Health Care Town Meeting

Marlene Blum announced that the HCAB had been approached by the Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) to co sponsor a Town Meeting on health care issues on May 12, 2003 at 7:00 PM. She reminded the HCAB that the CAAB had been very vocal in its opposition to the cost-containment strategies enacted by the CHCN. She added that after some coaching, the CAAB was able understand the need to work together with the Health Department to solve some of these issues. She asked the HCAB if it was interested in co-sponsoring the event. Bill Finerfrock asked about the prospects of the event becoming a politically charged. Marlene Blum responded that the organizers agreed not to focus on one point of view. They are inviting Kaiser Permanente, and representatives of pharmaceutical companies in order to present more than one perspective. Bill Finerfrock asked if representatives of State or Federal Government would be invited. Marlene Blum reported that Jane Woods had been invited, as well as the Virginia Congressional delegation. Bill Finerfrock suggested inviting someone from HHS. Susan Randall suggested former Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Services Claude Allen. Bill Finerfrock also suggested the Asst. Secretary of Planning and Evaluation, as well as someone from the Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Association (PharMA). Jim Scott suggested that the Medical Society be invited. Marlene Blum noted that the suggestions were appreciated. She added that the organizers of the event have funding to pay for speakers. Susan Randall asked if the event would be broadcast or taped. Marlene Blum responded that it could be taped as it was being held in the Board Auditorium. Bill Finerfrock moved that the HCAB co-sponsor the event. John Clark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

May Meeting

Marlene Blum noted that in addition to being the date of the Health Care Town Meeting, May 12, 2003 was the date of the next HCAB meeting. She asked HCAB members what they wanted to do. After some discussion it was decided to hold an abbreviated meeting beginning at 6:30 PM that same evening.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.